Import contents in Indian exports

3149. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the import contents (in value terms) of major Indian exports;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian exports are still import intensive;

(c) whether, if continued in the chang ed scenario, viz. liberalised inputs, this would put additional burden on the BOP; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Govern ment to make Indian exports less import intensive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) It is difficult to give data on the import content of major Indian exports since exporters avail of benefits under different schemes such as duty exemption scheme, duty drawback scheme etc. Although it is difficult to get data on the import-intensity of Indian exports, it is generally observed that the import content varies from commodity to commodity. It is generally high in the case of exports of gems and jewellery and low or marginal in the case of exports of primary products like agricultural and mineral products ;

(c) The trade deficit for the period for the April—June, 93 the latest period for which such data are available for 92—94, is lower than that for the corresponding periods of the last three years. If the present trend continues, the liberalised export regime is not likely to put addi tional burden on the balance of pay ments.

(d) The new Exim Policy 1992—97, *inier alia* aims to promote efficient and internationally competitive import sub stitution and self-reliance under a dere gulated framework for foreign trade. It also seeks to foster the countrys' research (R&D) and technological capabilities.

Target for tea export

3150. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the target set for the export of tea during 1993;

(b) how much tea is estimated to be available for exports;

(c) whether the gap between targetted export and estimated availability is to be met by curtailing domestic supply; and

(d) if so, in what manner the prices of Tea in the domestic market are proposed to be stabilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Target for export of tea during 1993-94 has been fixed at 210 m. kgs.

(b) and (c) As per the trend of tea production so far, it is expected that production target for 1993-94 may be achieved, in which case there will not be any curtailment in domestic supply to meet the targetted exports.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of agricultural products

3151. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest "Food Outlook" report of FAO has categorically mentioned that World Trade in cereals is likely to fall;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a good potential for India to develop exports in agricultural products, particularly cereals; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase agricultural exports, particularly cereals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government plans to promote export of agricultural commodities like superfine varieties of rice, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, cashewnuts, spices, oilcakes, meat and meat products etc. in a big way. This is considered essential to step up investment in the agricultural sector, raise the income generation capacity in the rural areas and promote sustainable growth with equity in our exports. Government, therefore, attaches high priority to encourage the establishment of export oriented units (EOUs) in this sector. The units in this sector can now import capital goods and equipment easily at a concessional rate of duty. Various inputs and materials required in agriculture and allied activities have also been made freely importable. In case of items like rice, fresh fruits and